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WALKER
SANNA
MENYZ

LUKE CAGE



While imprisoned for a crime he did not commit, **Luke Cage** was subjected to medical experiments that gave him superhuman strength and bulletproof skin. Once free, he used his abilities to become a Hero for Hire, protecting people who had nowhere else to turn. His mission has taken him to Wakanda, the Savage Land, even Avengers Mansion, but Luke has never forgotten where he came from.

Luke Cage went to New Orleans for the funeral of the man who gave him his powers, Dr. Noah Burstein. However, it turned out Burstein wasn't dead, but kidnapped by Cyril Morgan, a businessman whose son had been subjected to Dr. Burstein's procedure, which healed his son but also afflicted him with a violent rage that led to the death of Burstein's wife.

Morgan's son wasn't the only person Dr. Burstein experimented on. A local gang led by the indestructible KevLar, a mobster and his crew, and Burstein's original test subject Mitch Tanner, A.K.A. Warhawk, were all thrown into chaos when the drug stabilizing Burstein's procedure dried up. Luke discovered the secret of Dr. Burstein's disappearance and all hell broke loose. Once the dust settled, Burstein, Warhawk, and KevLar were on the run, Cyril Morgan was in jail, and his son, the mobsters, and all of KevLar's gang were dead.

It's time for Luke Cage to go home.

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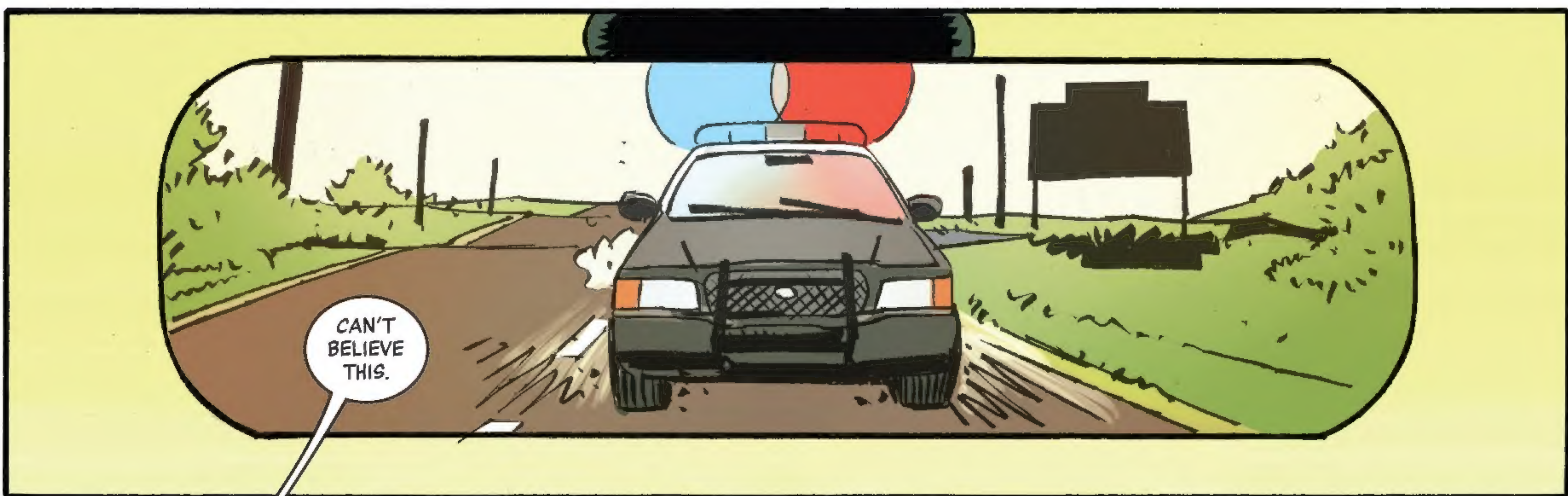
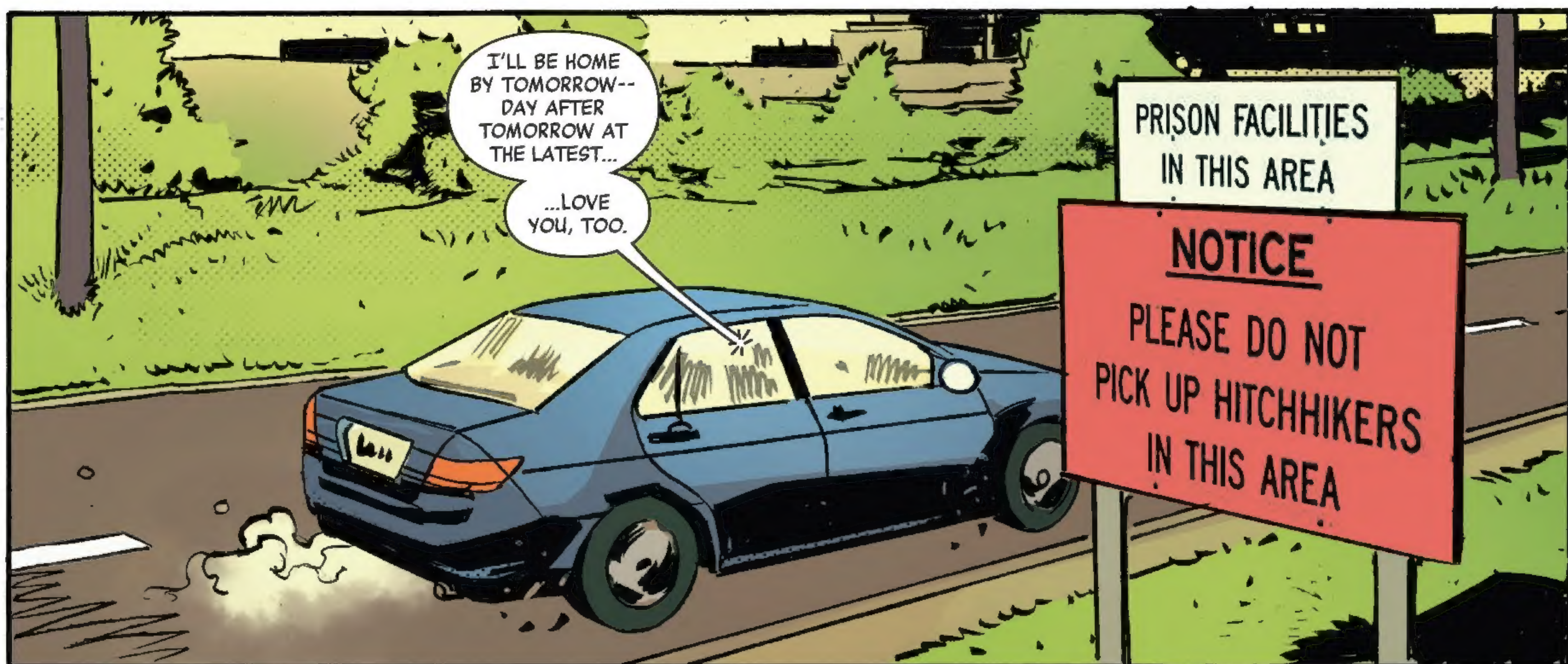
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MIKE DEODATO JR.

NORTHERN MISSISSIPPI.







I'D THOUGHT A ROAD TRIP WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA AFTER NEW ORLEANS. CLEAR MY HEAD A BIT.

EVERYONE TOLD ME NOT TO DO IT--THAT IT WAS A BAD IDEA.

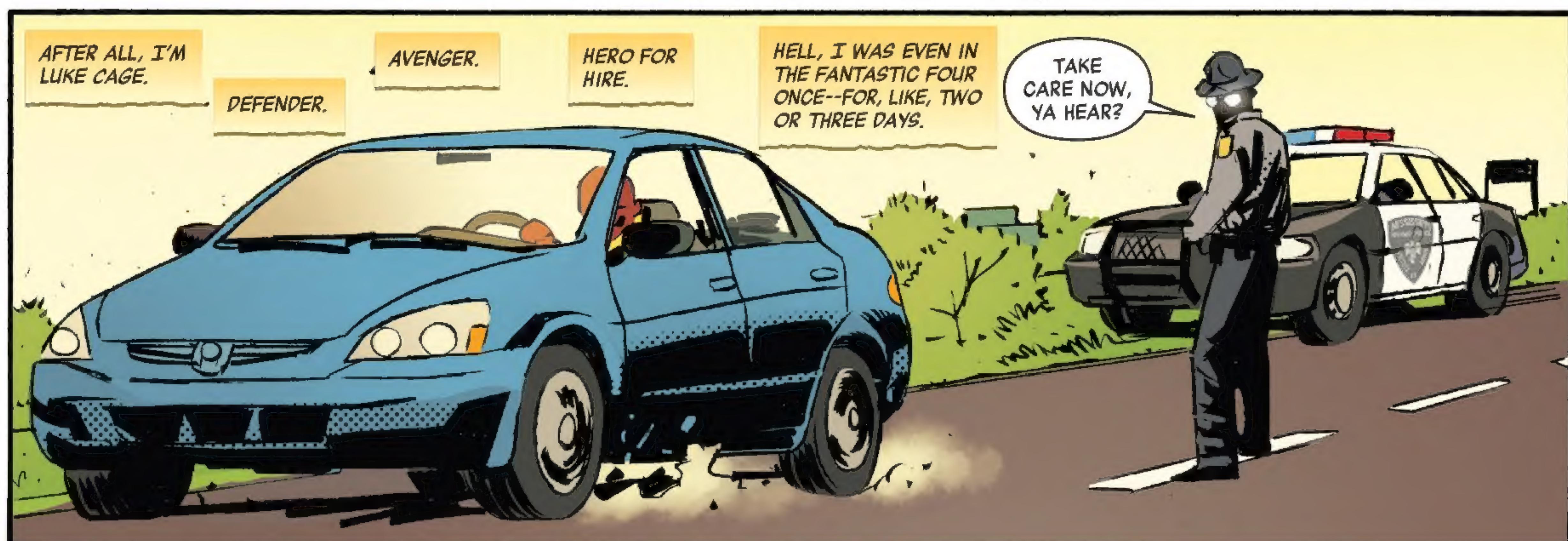
AND BY "EVERYONE," I MEAN JESSICA, DANNY, MY FATHER, THE GUY AT THE CAR RENTAL PLACE, AND THE LITTLE VOICE IN MY HEAD THAT SAYS THINGS LIKE, "DON'T EAT CLAMS, THEY ALWAYS MAKE YOU SICK."

BUT I DIDN'T LISTEN.

I'LL LET YOU OFF WITH A WARNING THIS TIME--BUT WATCH YOURSELF.

AVENGERS AIN'T ABOVE THE LAW.

THANKS, OFFICER. I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.



AFTER ALL, I'M LUKE CAGE.

DEFENDER.

AVENGER.

HERO FOR HIRE.

HELL, I WAS EVEN IN THE FANTASTIC FOUR ONCE--FOR, LIKE, TWO OR THREE DAYS.

TAKE CARE NOW, YA HEAR?



REDNECK.

WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE COULD SOMEONE LIKE ME POSSIBLY GET INTO ON A ROAD TRIP?

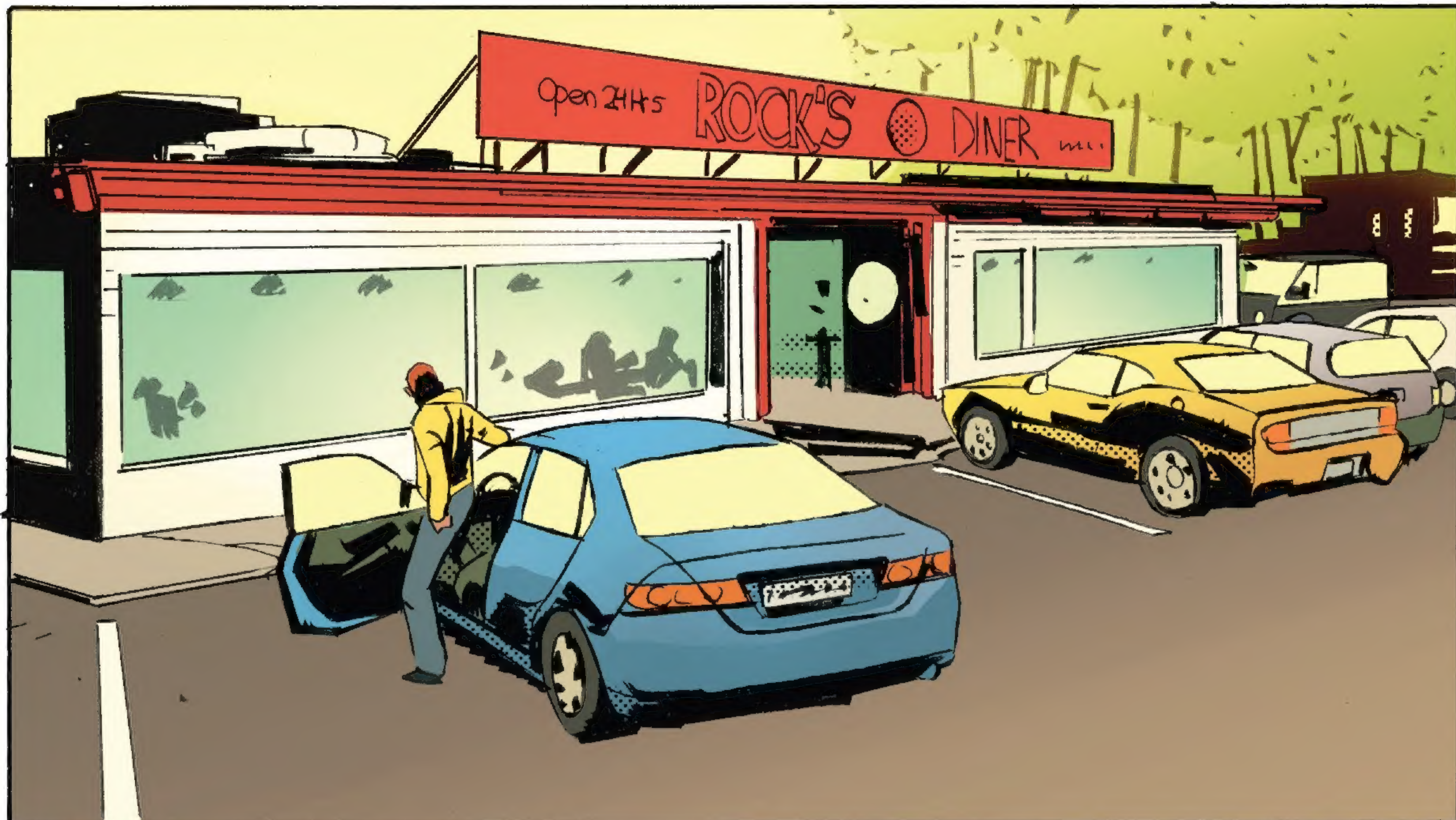


THIS IS SEVEN CARRIE THREE, GONNA NEED YOU TO LET THE BIG BOSS KNOW...

...WE GOT A POTENTIAL PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS.



REPEAT--WE MAY HAVE OURSELVES A PROBLEM.



















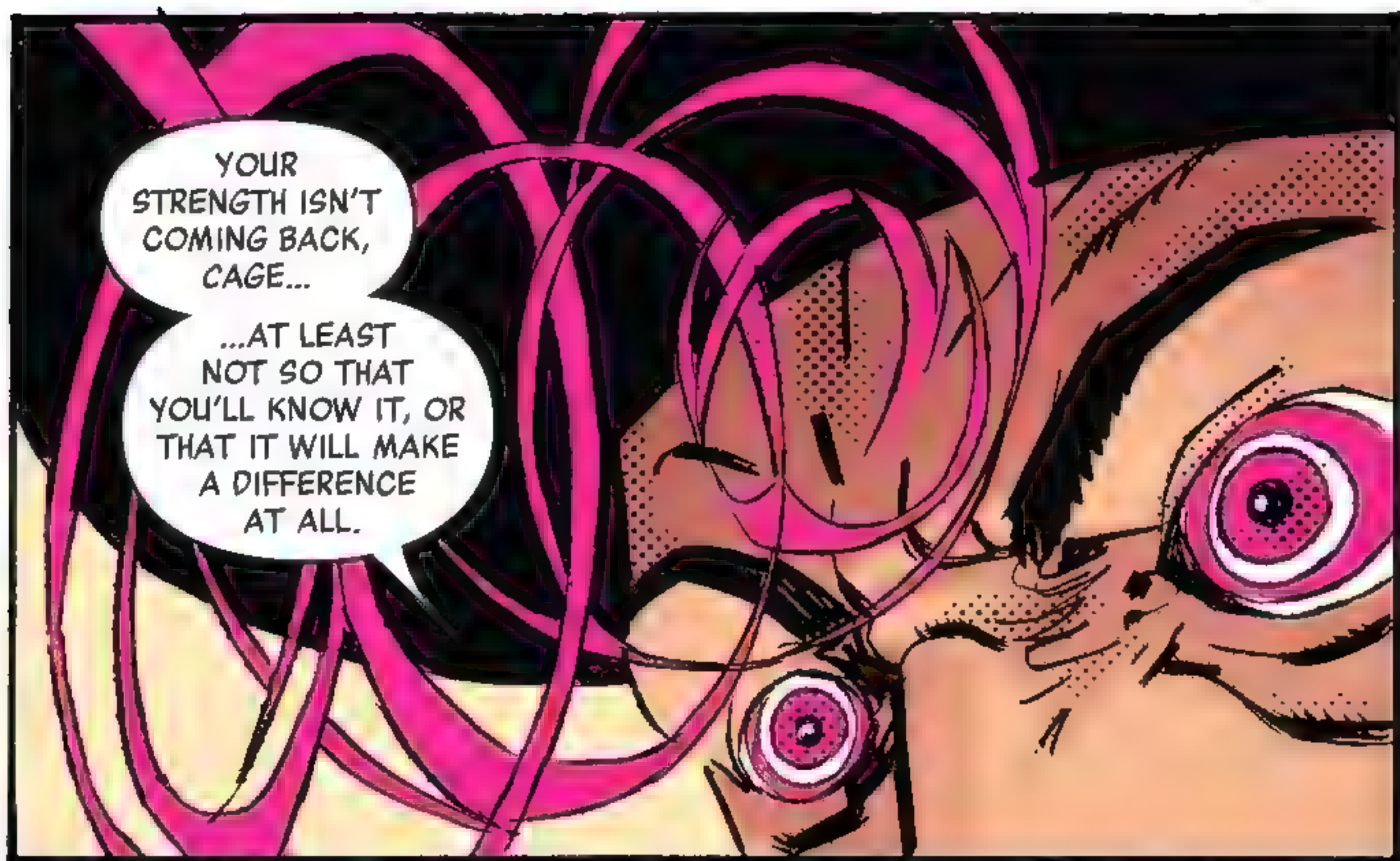








I DON'T THINK SO--I CAN ALREADY FEEL THE STRENGTH COMING BACK TO MY ASS-KICKING FOOT.



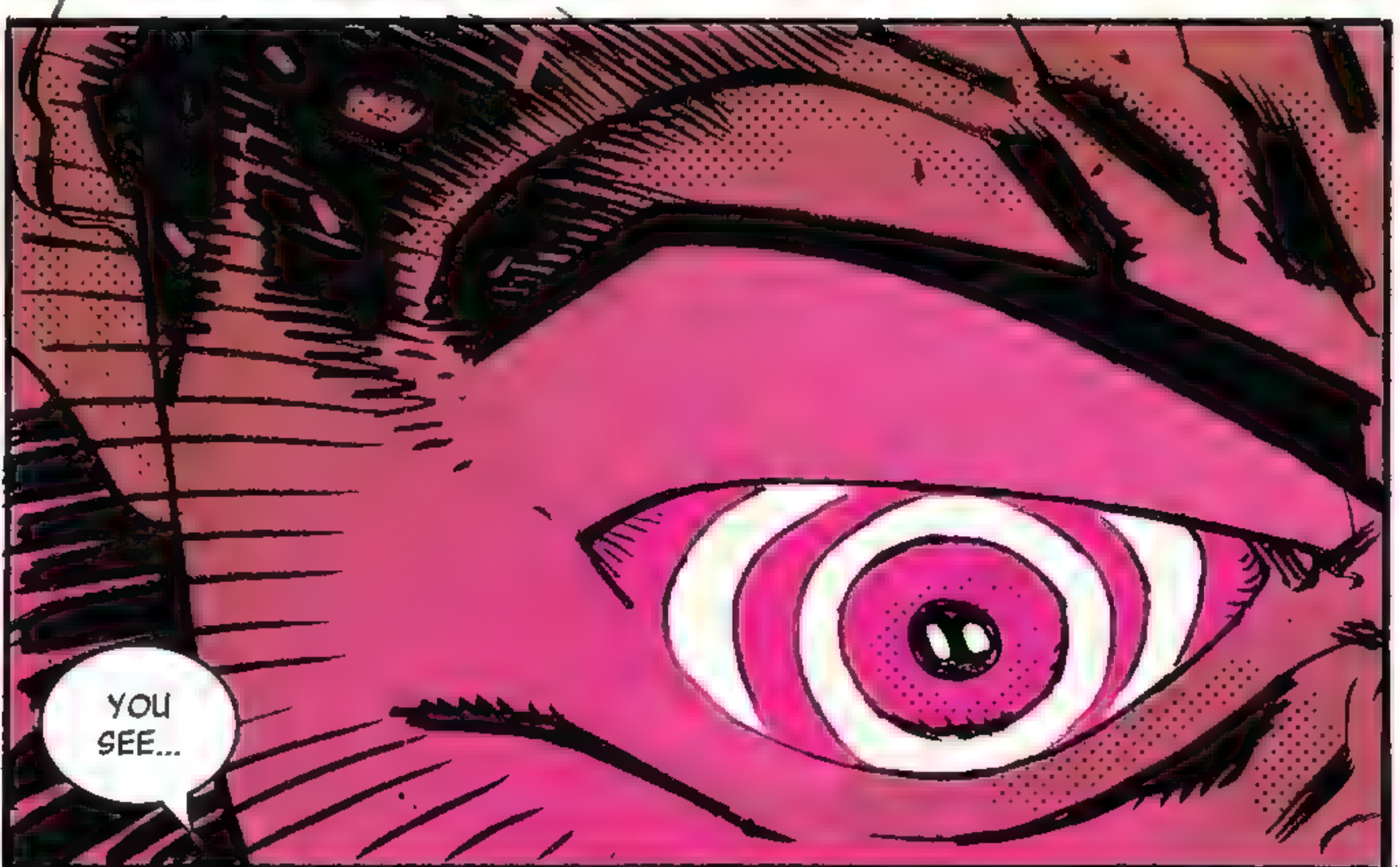
YOUR STRENGTH ISN'T COMING BACK, CAGE...
...AT LEAST NOT SO THAT YOU'LL KNOW IT, OR THAT IT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT ALL.



SWEET...UNGH... CHRISTMAS!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING TO ME?!



I'M HELPING YOU, MR. CAGE-- MAKING YOUR LIFE SIMPLER. THINK OF THIS AS AN **UNBURDENING** AS YOU START YOUR NEW LIFE.



YOU SEE...



...YOU
BELONG TO
ME NOW.







NEXT: HELL IN A CELL!

**OH, NO! LUKE CAGE, BACK BEHIND BARS?!
SAY IT AIN'T SO!**

WALKER

SANNA

MENYZ

LUKE CAGE



**PLEASE SEND ALL PRISONER CORRESPONDENCE TO
MHEROES@MARVEL.COM AND REMEMBER TO MARK IT "OK TO PRINT"!**



I WAS SENT TO PRISON
FOR A CRIME I DIDN'T
COMMIT.

THIS WAS NOT THE
LIFE I EXPECTED.

SEE, I WASN'T BORN
A SUPER HERO.



I WAS
MADE ONE.

THEY WANTED A
SUPER-SOLDIER.

BUT I DON'T TAKE
ORDERS FROM
ANYONE.



AFTER THE EXPERIMENTS,
I BECAME **SUPER**
STRONG.

I BECAME
INVULNERABLE.

I BECAME...



**LUKE
CAGE**



WHEN I FINALLY GOT OUT OF PRISON, I DECIDED TO USE MY NEWFOUND POWERS TO DO GOOD IN THE WORLD...

...TO GIVE BACK.

I BECAME A HERO FOR HIRE...



...EVEN AN AVENGER.

BUT NO MATTER WHERE I WENT...



...I NEVER FORGOT WHERE I CAME FROM.

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THE FASHION OF TODAY'S YOUTH. FIND YOURSELF A DECENT SHIRT.

YES, MA'AM.



I FOUND A KINDRED SPIRIT IN THE LAST PERSON I EXPECTED... JESSICA JONES.



WE'RE FAR FROM THE PERFECT COUPLE.

I MAKE HER CRAZY. AND SHE RETURNS THE FAVOR.

FORTUNATELY, OUR DAUGHTER IS BETTER THAN BOTH OF US.



SO, YEAH, THIS ISN'T THE LIFE I WAS EXPECTING.

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?

I WOULDN'T CHANGE A DAMN THING.

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